THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): No, Sir.

(b) The number of foreign channels is increasing.

(c) There is no such proposal. However, Doordarshan is constantly striving to provide a wholesome fare of programming at the national and regional levels in order to cater to the needs, sustain the interest, of the widest cross section of its viewers.

Audience Research Unit of Doordarshan

3432. SHRI SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Audience Research Unit has conducted some Television Ratings of different programmes telecast on DD-1 and DD-2 channels every week;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether such research benefits the TV viewers in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any suggestion have also been received from the TV viewers during such research study; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with measures to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Weekly reports are obtained from panels set up for the purpose in 14 metro cities in respct of various programmes telecast by Doordarshan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It informs the viewers about the viewing pattern of the various programmes telecast by Doordarshan during a particular week.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) In the system only the details of actual viewing are collected. Doordarshan gets an enormous amount opinion/suggestions of the viewing public in respect of its programmes mainly through letters received by it and also through comments appearing in the press, which is taken note of by the producers.

Promotion of local languages on Doordarshan and Akashwani

3433. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are really interested to promote local languages through Doordarshan and Akashwani;

(b) how many local languages and which local languages are used for giving news;

(c) whether correspondents have been appointed for regional languages in Doordarshan and Akashwani;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have decided to abolish some other posts of correspondents at any of the station;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government have decided to shift some of the posts of correspondents from one station to another station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No correspondent is appointed on linguistic basis.

(e) and (f) While 9 posts of AIR Correspondents have been abolsihed, Doordarshan has aboljshed 5 posts of TV News Correspnodents 4 posts of TV Assistant News Correspondents.

(g) The Headquarters of Correspondents of Doordarshan are shifted at times keeping in view the requirements of different Doordarshan Kendras.